

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-9 and 17-33, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

REMARKS

The present application is a division of copending Application No. 09/502,215, filed on February 11, 2000. Original Claims 10-16 remain pending in this application, and original Claims 1-9 and 17-33 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present divisional application is respectfully requested.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

Applicants also respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to Application No. 08/635,518, filed April 22, 1996, and Application No. 08/352,883, filed December 9, 1994, which was cited during the prosecution of the prior parent application. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-cited applications have not been

enclosed, nor have they been listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. The Examiner is respectfully directed to Patent and Trademark Office files for review of these applications.

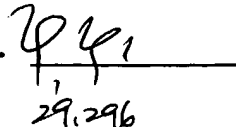
The information listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 were cited in the parent Application No. 09/502,215, and might be deemed pertinent for the reasons given there. The Examiner is respectfully directed to the Patent and Trademark Office files for review of those documents. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d) and MPEP § 609. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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